

Muslim Engineers Network

**SPRING NEWSLETTER,
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Message from the Chair

By Orangzaeb Ali

*“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient.”
Quran 2:155.*

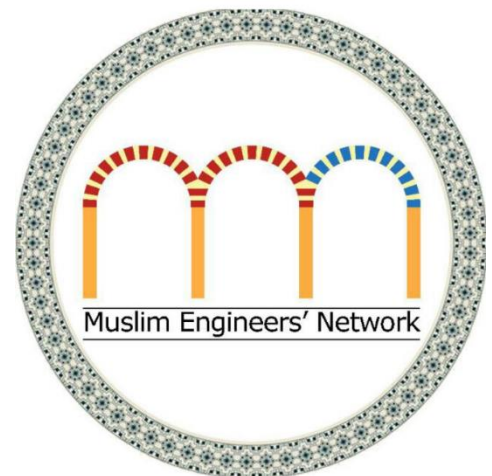
Aslaamu’alaikum, I hope you are all in the best of Iman and health. This newsletter is coming to you at quite an unusual time, the world as we know is currently in lockdown due to the emergence of a new strain of Coronavirus. Our governments are instructing us to limit social contact with others, non-essential businesses are having to close, emergency hospitals are being built to cope with the forecasted surge of patients, stock markets have plummeted. All from the emergence of a virus, something so small it can only be seen with an electron microscope.

Naturally this will cause anxiety and worry amongst us. We will worry about our job security, our investments and for many in the developing world, the ability to provide food and shelter to their families. As Muslims we are immensely blessed to be equipped with clear guidance to help us navigate this dunya in the most difficult of times. The above Quranic verse makes it clear, we will be tested, but what’s key is we exercise patience during this crisis. Don’t panic, don’t worry, we are people of “Al-Hamdulillah”, people of optimism, for rizq (sustenance) comes from Allah (swt) alone.

Nevertheless, ensure you follow government and scientific advice. Stay indoors, don’t go out unless absolutely necessary and wash your hands frequently, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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This newsletter has come after a gap of 2 years. We hope to make this a regular feature and invite you all to submit articles or share insights and ideas from the world of engineering. Contact us via newsletter@mengineersnet.com for feedback/comments or if you wish to contribute on our next feature.

The Islamic Identity

By Imam Emran Ahmed

Identity is what describes who or what someone is. We identify ourselves based on gender, race, religion, profession and anything which describes our condition and state. For example, when someone identifies their profession as a petroleum engineer, we understand what that entails and we also understand that this person has acquired the relevant qualifications and skills in order to become an engineer.

Similarly, when we identify as Muslims, this holds a greater depth of meaning which represents our internal beliefs and also our way of life.

Islam isn't just a collection of beliefs and customs which are meant to be practised as and when desired, rather it is an entire way of life. A true Muslim is an embodiment of all the teachings of Islam, a true Muslim's actions reflect the Qur'an and Sunnah. Hereunder I would like to mention a few Ahadith where the Prophet ﷺ tells us who is a true Muslim. A true Muslim is one who:



Doesn't Harm anyone physically or verbally

"The true Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand people are safe, and the true believer is the one from whom the peoples' lives and wealth are safe." (An-Nasa'i)

Fulfils the rights of other Muslims

"There are six rights of a Muslim upon a Muslim: When you meet him, greet him; when he invites you, respond to him; when he seeks counsel, give him advice; when he sneezes and praises Allah, say to him: 'May Allah have mercy on you (Yarhamuk-Allah)'; when he is sick, visit him; and when he dies, follow his funeral". (Muslim)

Doesn't discriminate due to tribalism

"He is not from us who calls towards tribalism and he is not from us who fights for tribalism and he is not from us who dies for tribalism." (Al-Jaam'i-us-Sagheer)

Doesn't wrong, despise and violate anyone's rights

"A Muslim is a Muslim's brother. A true Muslim does not wrong, desert or despise his brother. Piety is found here (ﷺ pointing three times to his chest), despising his Muslim brother is enough evil for any man to do. Every Muslim's blood, property and honour are unlawful to be violated by another Muslim." (Muslim)

Never deceives anyone

"It is not permissible for a Muslim to sell something which has a fault in it without clarifying it to the buyer." (Ibn Majah)

"He who deceives is not from us. Deceivers and Cheaters will be in the fire of Jahannam" (Ibn Hibban)

Shows mercy to the young and respects the elder

"He is not from us who doesn't show mercy to the young and does not respect the elderly. (Tirmidhi)

Is beneficial for everyone

"The person who is most beneficial to people is the best amongst them." (Albaani As-silsilatu-Saheehah)

Islam is a beautiful religion with so many great teachings which enables us to truly appreciate one and another and live in a society full of peace and harmony. Being a Muslim is our true identity above everything else we identify as. May Allah make us 'True Muslims'. Ameen.

Emran Ahmed is a graduate of Islamic Da'wah Academy, Leicester, Imam at Masjid Al-Hikmah, Aberdeen, Trustee of Charity organisation Al-Ihsaan Academy, London.

Al-Hikmah masjid in Aberdeen was opened In 2019 and is home to a very large population of oil & gas workers. The masjid has rapidly become one of the most active in the UK.

Basics of Gas Flares

By Abu Ibraheem

The iconic open flames you often see on oil & gas rigs are called flares. They allow safe disposal of hydrocarbons, for reasons such as, venting prior to maintenance, emergency relief valve discharge or plant de-pressurisation (blowdown) and production flaring.

Flares can be of two types: Ground Flares and Elevated Flares. Ground flares are flaring systems located at ground level, usually an economical alternative to elevated flares. Elevated flares are a little more complex.

An Elevated flare as the name suggests is a flare stack that is elevated (high). It has several components which are mentioned below:

Flare Knockout Drums

These are necessary to remove liquid droplets from the vapour which would otherwise end up at the flare tip and may create a hazard. Flare knock out drums are also said to prevent liquid slugs. Design of flare knockout drums are based on specifications outlined in API 521 (American Petroleum Institute 521).

Flare seals are used to reduce the amount of purge gas required; and are often Liquid, Molecular or Diode seals.

What is Purge gas?

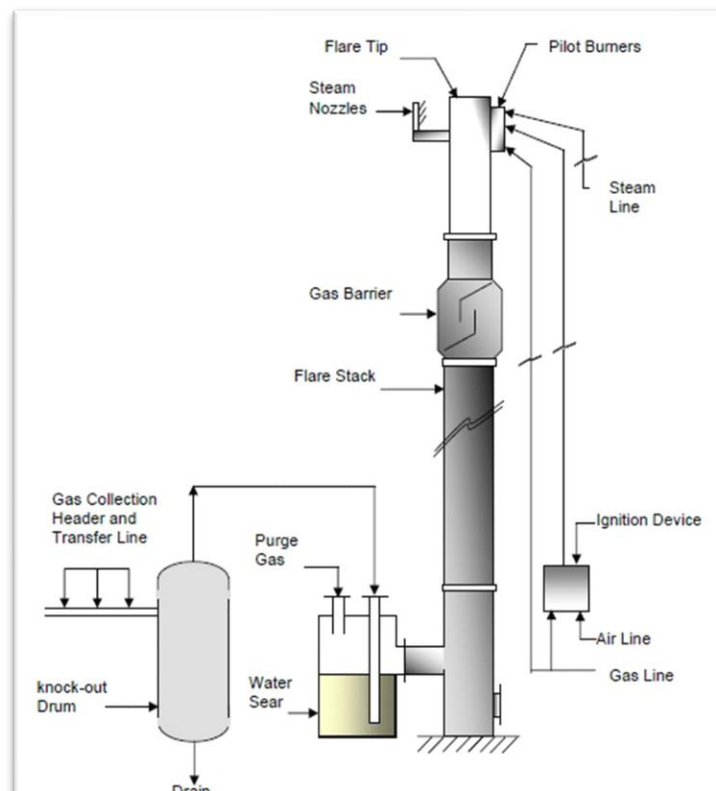
There are two types of purge gas, one is purge gas at the stack, which is used to prevent reverse flow via air ingress at the tip of the stack, the other type is at the start of the flare header and used to sweep the flare gas along the headers. Flare seals mentioned above are used to reduce the amount of purge gas required in a flare system.

Ignition systems

To ensure ignition of flare gases, continuously burning pilots with remote means are used. Vendors typically provide a dedicated ignition package for use at flares.

Why is steam sometimes used at flares?

Sometimes the flame at the flare is smokey, it looks unsightly. Steam is used to produce a smokeless flame.



Changing Work Cultures – From Malaysia to UK

By Zaleza Aman

I've been living in the UK for nearly 14 years now. My first stint here was in the 1990s, when I graduated from the University of Surrey. I started my career in Malaysia at Petronas Refining as an Advanced Process Control Engineer and Process Engineer, a role I was in for 7 years, before moving to the UK in 2006 to work as a Senior Process Control Engineer at M.W.Kellogg. As I consider myself an adventurous person, I jumped at the opportunity for my family and I to move, even though I hadn't done much research into the UK working culture. In hindsight, I would say it's definitely worth looking into the changes to expect if you're considering moving to work in another country.

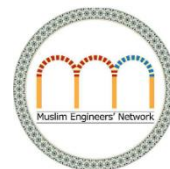


The main difference between the Malaysian and British work cultures lie in expectations: While the working hours are pretty much the same for both - 8/9-hour days, in Malaysia, there is certainly an expectation that this could increase should your employee pass you an unexpected task at the end of the working day. This happened to me on many occasions and may be specific to the Engineering industry. However, in Petronas, there was always a treat for the employees, a lunch or dinner at a five-star hotel, after all the hard work. In contrast, the Brits are good about leaving work on time and generally, take a more relaxed approach to work. Some work hard but they party harder, I think! They also like to talk shop a lot - especially during their tea breaks.

Unlike Malaysians, who enjoy taking lunch breaks away from their desks. The term 'sad desk lunch' sums up the culture of lunch breaks here, which is probably why they make up for it with so many tea breaks!

Another difference I've observed is that 'Meeting Time' here usually involves employees going to the meeting place beforehand and waiting for the meeting to begin, whereas in Malaysia, meetings are typically initiated by one person who will call for everyone involved to assemble. Most of the time the initiator has to wait for everyone to arrive before the meeting begins.

There are other benefits I found to working in the UK: Many of my work colleagues are non-locals and so you get the opportunity to mix with a diverse group. The UK also provides extended maternity leave for up to a year, which is much longer than we get back at home, and people tend to take many more holidays here. All in all, I enjoy my experience of living and working here, but the one thing that I really miss from back home is late-night eating at the multicultural hawker centres. Nothing beats the taste of home!



Reflections on London 2020 Networking Dinner

By Umar Mahboob

On the 1st of February 2020 the Muslim Engineers Network (MEN) hosted its long-awaited Annual Network Dinner at East London's famous Maedah Grill Turkish restaurant. This venue was a first for the Network and it was chosen due to its proximity to East London masjid, easy transport links and free parking.

The event was totally sold out, all 130 available seats were eagerly snapped up, even then, there were many enquiries from people still wishing to attend. It attracted people from all spectrums: senior, junior & student engineers, husbands & wives and grandparents. From Oil & Gas, construction to the rail industry, attendees were not disappointed!

The event started promptly at 2:30pm, with a steady stream of attendees and smooth registration process. It was opened with an introductory speech by myself, a beautiful Islamic reminder from Shk. Mu'awiyah on the topic of Rizq and its importance in Islam and how best we can use it to benefit our Dunya and Akhirah. It was a very beautiful and inspiring talk. Partnering with Human Appeal we were able to successfully raise £14,000 through generous donations during the event to support their main charity projects including the ongoing crisis in Yemen.

It's well known that the best way to network with others is face-to-face. This event offered an amazing opportunity to do just that. Networking began the moment people walked through the door into the restaurant to when they left. Engineers from many industries and disciplines were represented including: Oil & Gas, Rail, Infrastructure, Project Management, Process, Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and even Aerospace.

Dinner was served at 6pm, which included a large selection of mouthwatering mixed grills, sides, drinks and dessert with Turkish tea to finish. This was followed by a dedicated hour of networking during the late evening. Four key industries (Oil & Gas, Rail, Civil and Project Management) were identified and the attendees were left to choose which groups they would like to network with. An overwhelming number of those who attended told us they found the networking event an excellent initiative to meet likeminded individuals in similar industries.

By the end of the evening, the event still had good momentum, so much so that it was a big challenge requesting guests to depart the restaurant in order to allow for subsequent bookings to begin for that evening!

All in all the, event was well received and feedback has been taken into consideration for the next event which is currently scheduled for the later part of this year, Insha'allah. Muslim Engineers' Network was honoured to host this event and would very much like to thank everyone who attended the event.

Please don't miss the next MEN dinner, please book your tickets well in advance!



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